

has never won a national election after a panic," he said, "and I don't believe this election will prove an exception to the rule. See what we have to contend against. President Roosevelt has alienated from our party many business men, and while he has at the same time won many more voters from among the ranks of the plain people, they are voters who are for Roosevelt personally and Roosevelt is not to be our candidate. The labor element is dead against Taft. The men out of work, or working on short time, are very likely to throw their ballots against the party in power. We have made a muddle of things here at Washington this winter, and the idea has gone out among the people that we are doing nothing because we are angry at the president, a statement in which there is more or less truth. The people stand by the president and are disgusted with the do-nothingism of congress. If the democrats can not beat us now they may as well give up hope of regaining control of the government for all time to come."

THE NASHVILLE (Tenn.) Banner says: "Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller, who recently celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday, has served nearly twenty years in his high judicial position—a longer time than any other chief justice, except John Marshall, who served thirty-five years, and Roger B. Taney, who was in office twenty-eight years. Since the foundation of the government there have been only eight chief justices of the United States. Their names with the dates of their appointments, are given below: John Jay, New York, September 26, 1789; John Rutledge, South Carolina, July 1, 1795; Oliver Ellsworth, Connecticut, March 4, 1796; John Marshall, Virginia, January 31, 1801; Roger B. Taney, Maryland, March 5, 1836; Salmon P. Chase, Ohio, December 6, 1864; Morrison R. Waite, Ohio, January 21, 1874; Melville W. Fuller, Illinois, July 20, 1888."

SPEAKING OF Mr. Burrows, the temporary chairman of the republican national convention, the Boston Transcript says: "The Michigan senator is, however, not an impressive figure. He has long been the special guardian of the beet sugar interests in his state, and as such steadily opposed Secretary Taft's efforts to relieve the economic situation in the Philippines. Burrows is, moreover, a politician protectionist of the old type, the passing of which to a large degree will be signaled by the nomination of Taft. As a speaker, Burrows is somewhat ambitious. In the early days of his congressional service he delivered an oration, parts of which were of such surprising eloquence as to arouse the suspicion of a democratic member of about the same age, who searched the school books of childhood to find that Mr. Burrows had plagiarized freely from an old text book known as 'The Columbian Orator.' On account of this episode he was for some time nicknamed the 'Columbian Orator.' From that dusty tome he could presumably today extract words of eloquence to fit the assembling of a national convention to nominate a man whose policies and aspirations are decidedly out of keeping with his own."

THOSE WHO, as members of Audubon societies are particularly concerned in birds, will be interested in this story from the Kansas City Star: "It is not generally remembered that the world-wide reputation of Audubon as a naturalist, incidentally, is due to his failure to establish himself permanently as a Missouri grocery merchant and dealer in the best brands of Kentucky whisky. In 1810 he and Ferdinand Rozier, of Ste. Genevieve, loaded a keelboat at Louisville, Ky., with 310 barrels of whisky and groceries and started down the Ohio and Mississippi to Ste. Genevieve to open a grocery store. The trip was made during the winter, and the streams were so full of ice that the boat was drawn up against the bank and winter quarters were established just below Cape Girardeau. When Ste. Genevieve was reached, after the opening of navigation, the firm of 'Audubon & Rozier' opened their store and did a prosperous business. But the business was done by Rozier, for Audubon preferred the woods to the counter, and devoted more of his time to sketching and stuffing birds than he did to marketing the 310 barrels of good Kentucky Bourbon, or any other groceries. This led to a dissolution of the partnership. On April 11, 1811, Audubon, convinced of his unfitness for business, sold out to Rozier and took up the work for which he was

better fitted than anyone who had lived before or who has lived since, and from a fourth-rate grocer became the great ornithologist. The grocery business which Audubon abandoned grew until finally it 'extended throughout all of upper Louisiana.'"

HERE IS A good story told by the Washington Star: Commissioner Bingham of New York, discussing the case of a policeman found guilty of protecting gambling houses, said: "The man lied too naively in a defense of his innocence. He was like a carpenter employed last month by a newspaper friend of mine. My newspaper friend writes a good deal at home, and his study being next to the nursery the children's noise disturbed him and he employed a carpenter to make the wall sound-proof between the two rooms. 'I'll fix it all right,' said the carpenter, confidently. 'The best thing to do will be to line it with shavings.' He completed the job, then he called the literary man in. 'She's sound-proof all right now,' he said. 'Well, we'll test her,' said the literary man. You stay here.' And going into the nursery he called to the carpenter in the study: 'Can you hear me?' 'No, sir, I can't,' was the prompt reply."

THE NEW YORK Evening Post, which is not at all partial to democrats, says: "Congressman Tawney, chairman of the committee on appropriations, is said to have a powerful speech all prepared, to prove that the democratic filibuster in the house has cost the country \$50,000,000. His reasoning is that, under the unusual parliamentary conditions, it has been possible to slip through many a costly job. Mr. Tawney says that the leaders of the house could, under the normal operation of the rules, have cut off at least \$50,000,000 from the appropriation bills. But this is a pretty lame defense of extravagance. The party in power is always, and justly, held responsible for the budget. It will be this year. Moreover, the constant insistence of the house leaders—Payne and Dalzell—has been that, filibuster or no filibuster, the majority would conduct the public business in its own way and at its own pleasure. This makes it rather late in the day for the republicans to charge that the wicked democrats compelled the majority party to be wantonly extravagant. Hypocrisy never yet excused recklessness."

COLLIERS WEEKLY prints this interesting editorial: "When Mr. Bryan insists that most of the newspapers in American cities are 'corrupt' and 'subsidized,' he falls into overstatement, which leaves too many openings for reply and gives him the appearance of coming out of the controversy second best. Had he said that there is, in many cities, an identity of ownership or interest between the leading newspapers and the public-service corporations, sufficient to leave the people without an unfettered mouthpiece, he would have been precise. He might have added that the disposition of the large interests which have been under attack for some years to seize upon newspapers as instruments of shelter and defense was never more eager than today. As examples, Mr. Bryan cites 'one paper controlled by the Morgan combine, one by the Louisville and Nashville railroad, another by the Santa Fe,' and John R. Walsh's ownership of the Chicago Chronicle as 'an adjunct to Mr. Walsh's various business enterprises.' To his list Mr. Bryan should add John R. McLean. This distinguished democrat owns the Washington Post, which not only is the leading newspaper in the District of Columbia, but also, by virtue of its daily appeal to the eyes of congress, exerts a large influence on national legislation. Mr. McLean has also the control of the Washington Gas Light company, and, by alliance with one of the two wealthy senators, is dominant in some of the local street railways."

A WASHINGTON dispatch to the St. Louis Republic says: "All but 130 out of the 980 delegates to the republican national convention have been elected. Only one week of the contest remains. With next Sunday the last convention for delegates must be held under the call of the national committee, and all contests must be filed by May 28. Taft is far in the lead; indeed, so far that it would seem impossible to defeat him at Chicago. His nomination would be freely conceded but for the fact that the movement to stampede to Mr. Roosevelt continues strong. In some states the vote of the secretary of war has been reduced,

and in others it has been increased. He is given only ten votes from Connecticut, and the other four that are instructed are placed in the Roosevelt column. They might later be found in the column of the secretary of the treasury, in case Taft's nomination should be deemed inexpedient, and in case Mr. Roosevelt prevents his own nomination. Two votes are taken from Mr. Taft in New Hampshire and Vermont each and given to Governor Hughes. Two are taken from him in Missouri and added to Roosevelt. The secretary of war is given two more votes in Kentucky than were accorded him last week. He is conceded twelve in Mississippi and twenty-six in Michigan, four more than he has been given in former estimates. The real and prospective strength of the candidates is as follows: Taft 513, Roosevelt 128, Hughes 88, Knox 68, Cannon 57, LaFollette 25, doubtful 10, Foraker 9, States contested 82."

ACCORDING to the Minneapolis Journal, Nebraska boasts of a lawyer who will take cases of but one kind—litigation against railroads. This lawyer's name is Jesse Gandy, and he lives at Broken Bow. Mr. Gandy is well fixed so far as this world's goods are concerned, and he delights in legal battle with railroad corporations, preferring the Burlington. The Tribune tells the story in this way: "Gandy owned a large section of the country in western Nebraska. The Burlington railroad wanted a right of way through the land. Gandy donated the land on condition that he should have a pass over the division as long as he lived. The railroad furnished the pass for several years. Then came a change of management and Gandy's pass was cut off. Gandy took his case to several lawyers, but found that each of them was retained by the railroad and none would take his case. 'I'll study law and fight my own case,' said Gandy. In time he was admitted to the bar. His first announcement read: 'I will take all righteous cases against a railroad and I will guarantee to win. If I lose your case I will pay the costs. If I win your case you pay me a part of the costs.' For sixteen years Gandy has been busy fighting the railroads, and especially the Burlington. He won't take a case unless he is convinced the plaintiff has a good chance of winning, and he pays all the costs, just as his advertisement reads. Usually he refuses to accept any fee for his services. He is independently wealthy and simply fights because he loves it and also to 'get even' with a railroad for 'dirt' done him."

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTIONS  
TEXAS

The democratic state convention for Texas met at Fort Worth May 27. The convention elected to the national convention the delegation headed by Senator Bailey. The convention adopted a platform similar to that adopted by the Nebraska democratic convention in 1907. It instructed the delegation to vote for Mr. Bryan.

ARIZONA

The democratic state convention for Arizona met at Tucson May 28. The convention elected a delegation to the national convention and instructed it for Mr. Bryan.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The democratic convention for New Hampshire met at Manchester May 28. The convention defeated a resolution proposing instructions for Mr. Bryan. The following telegram may be of interest:

Manchester, New Hampshire, May 28.—The Commoner: New Hampshire's eight delegates enthusiastically for Bryan and solidly pledged to support his candidacy; delegation led by Mayor Reed of Manchester, a most devoted, loyal Bryan man, who will be elected national committeeman. No instructions.  
GEORGE FRANKLIN WILLY.

FLORIDA

It will be necessary to hold a second primary in Florida. The following telegram explains:

Jacksonville, Fla., May 29.—The Commoner: Four Bryan delegates elected; all others required to enter second primary.  
W. S. JENNINGS.

WEST VIRGINIA

The West Virginia democratic convention elected a delegation to the national convention and adopted strong resolutions instructing for Mr. Bryan.